

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:EHICKS

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

ARA:GLISTER

ARA/PPC:GBROWN

S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----240146Z 014884 /62

O 240112Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 119117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, US, ES

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON EL SALVADOR

REF: (A) STATE 98384 (B) STATE 105097 (C) STATE 106224

(D) STATE 107684

1. UNDER BY-LINE KAREN DE YOUNG, WASHINGTON POST MAY 22 EDITION CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "CATHOLIC CHURCH, MILITARY DRAW BATTLE LINES IN EL SALVADOR". ARTICLE PRESENTS RATHER BALANCED GENERAL DEPICTION OF CURRENT TENSE SALVADORAN CLIMATE (E.G., PEASANT AND CHURCH FEELINGS; LIKELY EFFECTS ON TOURISM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT; AND SPECIFICALLY, THE IDB CANCELLATION).

2. WE ARE PUZZLED, HOWEVER, BY ONE PORTION OF THE ARTICLE WHICH CITES "A HIGH LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICIAL" AS STATING THAT

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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOT PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR EMBASSY DEMANDS THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATE THE RICHARDSON CASE. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE SINCE THE EMBASSY HAS ACTED UPON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING DEMARCHE TO MAKE, CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND TENOR OF LANGUAGE TO BE USED. THE VOLUMINOUS TRAFFIC OF WHICH REFTELS ARE BUT A SAMPLE,

ATTEST TO DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVE POLICY ON RICHARDSON CASE.

MOST RECENTLY THE SUBJECT WAS SPECIFICALLY RAISED AGAIN  
IN VERY STRONG TERMS WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER  
RICARDO CASTENADA DURING HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY TODMAN LAST WEEK. (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM  
SUMMARIZING THIS CONVERSATION.) WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSE AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS  
REPORTED STATEMENT. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009